

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed August 10, 2007 has been received and its contents carefully considered. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 28, 30, 33 and 34 were rejected as being indefinite for depending from a cancelled claim. Claims 27, 28 and 30 have had their dependencies modified by this amendment to depend from independent claim 26, and thus withdrawal of the rejection is now respectfully requested.

Turning to the art rejections, claims 26-31 and 35-40 were rejected as being unpatentable over Hollerith (USP 1,898,628). Dependent claims 32-34 and 41-43 were rejected as being unpatentable over Hollerith in view of Ford (USP 1,372,414). These rejections are respectfully traversed. Without conceding the propriety of the rejections, both rejected independent claims 26 and 35 have been amended. New independent claim 44 has been added and is discussed below.

Claims 26 and 35 have been amended to recite the drive shaft has a keyway slot and at least one bore extending inward in a location along the slot. These claims have also been amended to recite a keypiece adapted to fit in the keyway slot to lock the hub rotationally fixed on the shaft and with the keypiece adapted to slide axially along the keyway. Further, these claims recite a pin mounted slidably through the keypiece to slide radially. These claims further recite that the hub surrounds the drive shaft and can slide axially along the shaft. In addition, the claims recite a shoulder bolt threadably insertable through the hub to urge the pin into a bore to lock the keypiece and hub axially on the shaft.

Some embodiments according to the claim amendments are described in paragraph [0055] of the present specification and the right side of FIG. 10 of the present specification.

These embodiments provide an advantage wherein the hub is radially locked by a keypiece and axially locked by a pin that projects into a bore in the shaft.

As recited in newly added claim 44, all these features are present, but also more than one bore is provided so that the hub can be locked at more than one axial height on the shaft, depending on which bore the pin is urged into.

It is believed that the combination of features recited in the amended claims is neither taught nor suggested by the references used in the rejections. For example, the hub 14 of Hollerith does have a pin 15 which extends all the way through the shaft; however, there is no keyway slot or keypiece and this pin is not urged by a shoulder bolt as recited in the present claims. Furthermore, the invention recited in the claims includes both a key and keyway (which can be toleranced for a desired degree of radial securement) as well as a pin (which can be toleranced for a desired degree of axial control). Some preferred embodiments, as recited in the present claims, can thus in many ways provide a more convenient system than the single pin of Hollerith.

The reference to Ford has also been reviewed and is not believed to overcome the deficiencies noted above with respect to Hollerith. Ford does not seem to have any structure that would correspond to the recited keyway, keypiece, pin and/or shoulder screw.

New claim 44 contains the features recited in claims 26 and 35, but adds the feature of at least one additional bore in the shaft at a different axial location. This provides the ability to affix the hub at more than one axial location by selecting which bore the pin is inserted into. None of the references are seen to teach or suggest the combination of features including additionally plural bores for receiving a pin to adjust the hub position axially as provided for in claim 44.

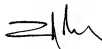
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application are believed to be in order, and such action is earnestly solicited.

If, for any reason, the Examiner disagrees, please call the undersigned attorney at 202-861-1696 in an effort to resolve any matter still outstanding before issuing another action. The undersigned Attorney is confident that any issue which might remain can readily be worked out by telephone.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicant petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2036 with reference to our Docket No. 87335.3203.

Respectfully submitted,

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